Reference BLH/9

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IMPORTS OF BLOOD PRODUCTS

I attach as requested a note on imports of blood products, prepared in conjunction with

HS1A

10 May 1983

CODE 18-77

IMPORT OF BLOOD PRODUCTS

Imports of blood products into the United Kingdom for medicinal purposes have to be licensed under the Medicines Act 1968. Licensed products must satisfy the requirements of the Act for safety quality and efficacy. It is made a condition of product licences in this field that the licence holder exercises proper quality control, which involves accounting for the source and quality of the blood, its processing and final product examination. On all blood products the licensing authority imposes a "batch release" condition under which samples must be supplied for testing by the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control.

Although all medicinal products require a product licence if they are to be promoted for medicinal use, a doctor may prescribe an unlicensed product provided this is on what is known as a "named patient" basis.